

## **The first CEEPUS Summer School at the Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, UM**

The first international CEEPUS Summer School "Tourism and Agriculture = Agritourism, Tourism, Culture and More" took place at the Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences from the 5. to 15. of September 2022. The programme of the summer school was carried out at the Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, with part of the programme also taking place in the fields and in the surrounding areas of the faculty.

The participants of the summer school were students from agricultural faculties that are members of the CEEPUS network Agriculture and Environment in the 21st Century - @groen. 20 international students from Serbia, North Macedonia, Croatia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Egypt participated in the summer school. In addition to lecturers from the Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, lecturers from the Vocational College of Hospitality and Tourism Maribor and two lecturers from abroad, shared their practical tourism experience and related agricultural sciences. The programme included a series of interesting workshops and lectures on tourism, agriculture, project management, organic farming, marketing and digitalisation, food safety, statistics, together with two language workshops in English and Slovene for foreigners. The focus of the programme was to integrate knowledge on agriculture and tourism, the importance of a healthy lifestyle, building on existing competences and gaining international experience.

A special feature of the summer school were the project assignments, which were focused on developing entrepreneurial ideas in the field of agritourism, and where the students worked in international teams. On the last day of the summer school, the students presented their business ideas and voted, together with the lecturers, for the best project idea.

In cooperation with the International Office of the University of Maribor, a wide range of social activities was organised for the students, including a full-day excursion to Ljubljana and Bled. We were also pleased to show the students our Meranovo estate, the Botanical Garden and Slovenia's first organic tourist farm "Pri baronu".

The summer school also paid special attention to health, well-being and sustainability, with all leisure activities being 'green' and environmentally friendly, including using public transport to get the students to event locations.

Judging by the positive reactions of the students, lecturers and everyone involved at the end of the summer school, we hope that it will become a traditional event of the Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences in further years to come.

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Coordinator of the 1st CEEPUS Summer School FKBV UM



